

Docket ID: CDC-2008-0001

Docket Title: Medical Examination of Aliens – Removal of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection from Definition of Communicable Disease of Public Health Significance

RIN: 0920-AA26

My name is [REDACTED] and as [REDACTED] of the ADAP Advocacy Association (**aaa+**), I'm writing to you on behalf of our board of directors in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recently published proposed rule change to remove all HIV-related travel restrictions to and from the United States.

aaa+ is a national, nonprofit organization committed to promoting and enhancing the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improving access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+** works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to assure that access to services recognize and afford persons living with HIV/AIDS to enjoy a healthy life.

aaa+ fully supports the proposed rule to lift the immigration ban on visitors and immigrants living with HIV/AIDS, stop unfair mandatory HIV testing of immigrants, and remove references to HIV from the scope of examinations in its regulations. This change will restore the U.S. as a leader in the areas of human rights, equal treatment under law, and public health. It will also go a long way to eliminate the negative stigma often associated with the disease.

The change is needed because:

- There is no scientific or public health justification for HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence.
- Restrictions on entry, stay, and residence based on HIV status are discriminatory.
- The enforcement of HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence can, and does, violate other human rights.
- HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence can impede effective responses to HIV.
- The restriction has reinforced negative, misguided attitudes about HIV/AIDS and the people living with the disease.

Thank you for giving **aaa+** the opportunity to comment on this important policy change.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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